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Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 1:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 2019-290-WS

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Dunlap ,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2019-290-WS - Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval to Adjust Rate Schedules and Increase Rates

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2019-290-WS - Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval to Adjust Rate Schedules and Increase Rates <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117247>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Becky Latimer

CHARLES F. DUNLAP

NANCY L. DUNLAP

LEXINGTON, SC

December 11, 2019

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive
Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

Attn: Clerk's Office

RE: Docket No. 2019-290-WS

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are in receipt of the above captioned Petition wherein Blue Granite Water Company has requested an adjustment to their water and sewer service rates. Blue Granite provides sewer service only to our residence; our water is provided by Lexington County Joint Water and Sewer Commission. Therefore, this letter addresses the proposed increase in standard residential sewer rates.

In this request, Blue Granite has requested an increase in their residential sewer rate from \$65.08 to \$101.30 per unit, which represents a 55.65% increase over their current rate. In reviewing the provided documents, it is described that the basis of this rate increase is the result of recent capital improvements. We believe it reasonable to assume that ongoing improvements and repairs of the infrastructure can and should be anticipated by any utility; therefore, it appears that a lack of planning for the future planning and poor management are the likely cause of such a large increase.

Like most retirees, our income is fixed; and, when one considers that every year there are increases in the cost of health insurance, groceries, etc., it becomes increasingly difficult each year to make ends meet, most especially when the usual cost of living adjustments to Social Security and other pensions fail to keep pace with these other increased living costs. As such, each one of these increases, while small, start to add up; and, as a result, they become a "death by a thousand paper cuts".

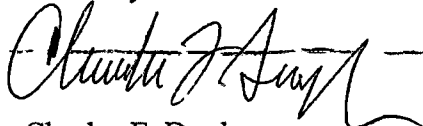
We understand that a private utility operator can reasonably expect a return on investment; however, when a lack of proper planning results in unexpected expenses, the utility's investors should expect to bear the burden, not the rate payers. (Note the recent troubles of South Carolina Electric and Gas.) This rate request can simply be described as

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excessive; and, an increase of the service rates of more than 50% is difficult to justify. We request that appropriate relief be given the consumer with a lower rate of increase.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this rate increase. Should there be any questions, we can be reached at the above address or by email at

Sincerely,



Charles F. Dunlap



Nancy L. Dunlap